



Thomas Frederic Dixon, Jr. Collection

Series 1. Correspondence. Subseries A. Item 1.A.1

Transcript of Madelyn D. Dixon's letter to Lee B. Weathers

December 14, 1945

Dear Mr. Weathers –

Thank you for your letter of November 30th. Wanted to answer it sooner but Mr. Dixon has had a particularly bad time – He is much better today and I'm sure he is going to be all right.

Thank you, too, for your interest and the time you took to write to the Charlotte Observer. I'm sure it would be well worth consideration.

I will be glad to do the work you ask for the paintings just as soon as possible – I will have to sketch through the books – I thought the title of each book and scene of the subject of each painting was pasted on the back of each canvas – Will also try to have the one sin Cleveland sent to you. It may take some persuasion. I know my sister treasures them – I feel so indebted to her for her loyalty and help through all the years of Mr. Dixon's long illness – that I rather hesitate to ask the favor – but I will undertake it. I would like the collection to be as nice as possible – if you'll notice most of the paintings you have depict scenes of violence – the ones in Cleveland are just the opposite. Lovely portraits of different heroines – a courtship scene from The Leopard's Spots and the burial of the robes from The Clansman – the best ones, in fact – I know they would add a great deal.

Before I close, Mr. Weathers – I would like to ask your advice on a matter that has been on my mind for a long time. It is about Mr. Dixon's burial. He has a plot here where Mrs. Dixon is buried – I bought a very nice bronze plack for it and a marker for her grave – but I would like to have him buried in Shelby. It seems to me that would be the proper place. What do you think of it? And could you get the

information for me of about what the cost of it would be? Mr. Dixon carries no insurance – He sold what he had years ago when he was having such difficulties in New York. He has about \$400.00 due him on his Civil Service Retirement – I have requested them in Washington to hold it until his death – as it draws a small interest – and I’ve known I would need it for that purpose. I know it is not enough but maybe some arrangement could be made whereby I could pay the balance later – if no money comes in before his death. Of course if I sell his biography I could manage it all at once. Mr. Dixon wouldn’t want an elaborate funeral. Neither one of us believes in it – of course – he may live for many more years – if it were not selfish I would say I sincerely hope so – for I shall miss him terribly – but for his own sake I know it would be a release and a blessing. I do want him to have a worthy burial. Here in Raleigh he is quite forgotten. Many people think he is already dead – since he has not been seen about for nearly four years. Some day, too, after he has passed – I think I could raise a fund for a simple but lasting memorial – plack or monument and I would like it to be in Shelby instead of Raleigh. Will you be so kind as to give the matter a little thought and let me know exactly how you feel about it? I will be deeply grateful.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Mrs. Thomas Dixon

PS – It might be right to have Mrs. Dixon’s body exhumed and buried beside him – that could be worked out later.